

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, and 18-25 being independent.

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,947,269 (Yamada). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of sequentially inputting image data corresponding to plural partial areas obtained by dividing a one-page image, judging whether the input image data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area, and detecting whether or not image data corresponding to the non-margin area represents at least a part of a specific image. In this manner, since detecting is performed only for input image data judged to correspond to a non-margin area, a specific image can be detected by processing less data and therefore the detection is faster. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the aforementioned features and therefore does not attain the advantages achieved by the present invention recited in Claim 1.

In particular, Yamada discloses that, in a case where a recognized original size or a size obtained by multiplying a designated area is larger than a paper size, the original is automatically divided and the divided original images are reproduced on respective plural pages. However, that patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of judging whether input image data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area and detecting whether or not the image data corresponding to the non-margin area represents at least a part of a specific image. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claims 5 and 6 recite similar features and are believed to be patentable for similar reasons.

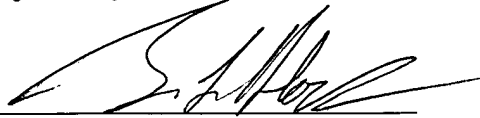
Regarding independent Claims 7, 18, and 19, the present invention includes, among others, the features of judging whether or not input image data corresponds to a specific image having a predetermined feature, in accordance with image information of a block. Regarding independent Claims 20 and 22, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of judging, for each image data corresponding to a block area of the predetermined size, whether or not the image data is a part of a specific image. Regarding Claims 23-25, the present invention includes, among others, the feature of judging, for each image data corresponding to a block area of a predetermined size in input image information, whether or not the image data is a part of a specific image. Applicants submit that Yamada does not disclose or suggest detection of a specific image as recited in all of these claims, therefore those claims are also patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

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